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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Michael C. Stolowitz

Application No. 09/411,698

Filed: October 1, 1999

For: **ON-THE-FLY REDUNDANCY OPERATION IN
THE SYNCHRONOUS DISK ARRAY CONTROLLER**

Date: December 22, 2000

Examiner: Thuan N. Du



Group Art Unit: 2782

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RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION

TO THE ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Applicant hereby responds to the July 26, 2000 Office Action as set forth below. (No amendments to the application are submitted in this response.)

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. The Examiner rejected claims 1-19 as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Searby (U.S. Pat. No. 5,765,186). Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection and requests reconsideration for the following reasons. Applicant's arguments are supported by the Affidavit of Michael C. Stolowitz (inventor), submitted herewith.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of reading data from a RAID array of disk drives, and correcting bad or missing data (read from a failed one of the drives) on-the-fly, before storing the read data into the read buffer memory. This approach has several advantages over the prior art, explained in the Affidavit of the inventor, paragraph 18, incorporated herein by reference. Applicant does not dispute that pipelines formed of registers are known in digital electronic circuits; that is not the invention. However, applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's